

Inside Wallops

National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Goddard Space Flight Center
Wallops Flight Facility, Wallops Island, Va.

Volume XX-09

Number 05

February 9, 2009



NASA and Industry Join Forces for Aerospace Day

Aerospace is the economic engine that can propel Virginia's economy to new levels.

NASA leaders from Wallops Flight Facility and Langley Research Center in Hampton joined aerospace industry representatives statewide to bring this message to Virginia General Assembly members on AeroSpace Day 2009, Thursday, February 5, in Richmond.

In its annual year-end review and forecast, the Aerospace Industries Association (AIA) reported that the aerospace sector is showing growth in both sales and employment when other industries are seeing dramatic downturns.

"Aerospace helps ensure our national security, bolsters advanced technology innovation and is maintaining its critical support of the U.S. economy," said AIA President and CEO Marion C. Blakey.

The Commonwealth of Virginia has more than 350 aerospace companies and employs over 27,000 people, generating a direct economic output of \$5.6 billion.

NASA facilities in Virginia generate \$1.2 billion and over 11,000 jobs. Additionally, NASA revenues translate into approximately \$64 million in federal taxes and almost \$14 million in state and local taxes.

Astronaut Andy Thomas, mission specialist on three Shuttle flights and flight engineer who spent over four months onboard the Mir space station, was on hand to discuss NASA's long-term exploration goals.

Representatives from the Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport, Old Dominion University and the Virginia Space Flight Academy also attended the event and were available to answer questions.

Throughout the morning, Langley educational experts demonstrated NASA's Digital Learning Network (DLN), an electronic education capability that links students and teachers with NASA experts across the nation.

In addition, General Assembly members met with students in their home districts via the DLN.

Super Pressure Balloon Sets New Flight Record

NASA's 7 million cubic foot super pressure balloon test flight has passed 43 days and is well into its third orbit around the South Pole. This marks the milestone of the longest flight for the NASA Balloon Program.

The previous record was the Cosmic Ray Energetics And Mass (CREAM) 2005 flight of 41 days, 21 hours, 36 minutes.

Many people have been associated with the Ultra Long Duration Balloon (ULDB), now the Super Pressure Balloon, project for over 12 years. Untold days and late nights have been spent diligently learning from previous flights. All these dedicated efforts have led to the design and development of this super pressure balloon that has performed flawlessly during the current test flight.

Congratulations to all past and present members of the NASA Balloon Program family and the ULDB Team — NASA, Columbia Scientific Balloon Facility, Aerostar International Inc., Winzen Film & Fiber, Inc., Tensys, and the California Institute of Technology — for the ingenuity and solid engineering efforts that have culminated in this very successful and now record breaking flight.

Thanks to the staff of Aerostar for their expertise and precision in building NASA's balloons and to TCOM for the support of our hangar model tests at their facility in Elizabeth City, N.C.

Congratulations and thanks especially go to the staff of the Columbia Scientific Balloon Facility, the National Science Foundation and Raytheon Polar Services Corporation for their support of this year's Antarctic campaign. They made this super pressure test flight possible.

While the flight duration record is something to be proud of, the team can be especially proud to see this new vehicle fly. Through their efforts, the engineering and operations knowledge that will be obtained from this test flight will take science into a new era of discovery.

Thunderbird Stops at Wallops



The U.S. Air Force's # 8 Thunderbird made a stop over at Wallops on Monday, February 2. The Thunderbird crew met with personnel from NASA Wallops and Ocean City, MD., regarding their participation in the Ocean City air show on June 13 and 14.

Jacob Owen photo



This Saturday is Valentine's Day. Send a candy gram to a friend, co-worker, or family member. To place an order call Sarah Daugherty at x2283 or visit the Exchange Store, Bldg. E-2 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on February 9, 10 and 11.

Candy grams will be delivered to the recipient on February 13.

Did you know...

Wallops Aerobic Club stretches target muscles that tend to get tight:

- (1) The back of the neck
- (2) The chest
- (3) The lower back
- (4) The hip flexors
- (5) The hamstrings



President's Day, February 16, celebrates the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln, born Feb. 12, 1809, and George Washington, born Feb. 22, 1732.

It's Six More Weeks of Winter Weather

by Ted Wilz, Senior Meteorologist

The world's most famous groundhog saw his shadow Monday morning (Ground Hog Day), predicting that this already long winter will last for six more weeks.

The weather at Wallops Island during January was cold and dry. Although we had just a bit of wintry precipitation, the frequent cold and wind made January feel much more like winter than the two previous months.

Temperatures averaged 2.5 degrees below normal during January. As chilly as it was, we set no new record lows (or highs) for the month. Temperatures did not even reach 30 degrees for a high on January 16 and 17.



The coldest morning of the month was on January 17 when the thermometer dipped to a brisk 6 degrees.

January also was a very dry month at Wallops. We had measurable precipitation on 10 days in January, which is normal. Only 1.87 inches of precipitation was recorded, which is well below the monthly average of 3.09 inches. We had .3 inches



of snow during the month, which also is well below our monthly average of nearly three inches.

The cold weather in January came on the heels of west to northwesterly winds, usually behind a cold front. This was the case with the nine days that we had 30 mph winds. The strongest wind of the month was a 43 mph gust on January 7.

High temperatures in March start out near 50 degrees. By the end of the month end are usually in the upper 50's. Lows are in the low to mid 30's at the beginning of the month before warming to near 40 as April approaches. The coldest March temperature on record is 14 degrees, occurring most recently in 1996. The warmest March temperature is a summer-like 86 degrees that surprised everyone on March 13, 1990.

March is the second wettest month of the year for this area. We average 3.76 inches of rain. We can still see occasional snow in March. The monthly average is .31 inches.

Wallops Shorts.....

Sounding Rockets

The final five rockets in the 2009 campaign have been staged at the Poker Flat Research Range, Alaska. The launch window runs February 11 to March 3.

A team is at the White Sands Missile Range, N.M., preparing for the launch of a Terrier-Black Brant sounding rocket currently scheduled for February 24.

On the Road

John Brinton, NASA Sounding Rockets Program Office, served as a judge for the Worcester County Public Schools' 35th annual TECH FEST on the evening of February 5 at Snow Hill (Md) High School.

Wallops Black History Club Presents an Evening of Dinner and Entertainment

February 21

5 p.m. to midnight

Navy MWR Bldg. on Kearsarge Circle



Tickets are \$30 per person; \$15 for ages 12 and under. The deadline for tickets is February 13.

For more information or to purchase tickets call Cheryl Johnson, x1607; Rebecca Beach, 1625; or Freda Johnson, 1466.

Take Your House Off the Grid

Anyone who missed Spess Neblett's January 22 presentation, Take Your House Off the Grid, One Room at a Time, can catch a rerun at a meeting of the Chincoteague Garden Club at 7 p.m. on March 11 at Paschal Hall, St. Andrew's Church on Chincoteague.

For further information call Jan Jackson, 757 824-6178.

Inside Wallops is an official publication of Goddard Space Flight Center and is published by the Public Affairs Office, x1584, in the interest of Wallops employees. Recent and past issues of *Inside Wallops* also may be found at: <http://www.nasa.gov/centers/wallops/news/newsletters.html>

Editor
Asst. Editor

Betty Flowers
Rebecca Powell